

NATIONAL
AERONAUTICS
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ADMINISTRATION



NASA HEADQUARTERS
1520 H STREET NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
TELEPHONE: EXECUTIVE 3-3260 TWX: WA 755

IN REPLY REFER TO SL(JMW:jt)

4 MAY 1962

Dr. Joshua Lederberg
Department of Genetics
Stanford University
Palo Alto, California

Dear Dr. Lederberg:

In early October 1961, you and your colleague, Dr. Soffen, were invited to become experimenters on the 1964 Mariner B mission to Mars. One important criterion on carrying your microscope experiment, as stated in the invitation, included engineering contingencies principally in regard to power, telemetry, and weight on both the bus and capsule. Since that time, these contingencies have become critical due to several factors connected with booster capability and spacecraft design. In view of these conditions, the successful entry of the capsule into the Mars atmosphere hinges upon the restriction to very light, simple instrumentation and direct transmission to earth rather than by use of a capsule-bus telemetry system.

It is intended to provide a flexible capsule design so that later Mars opportunities can take advantage of the more sophisticated experiments such as yours. However, at the present time, it does not appear practical to plan for inclusion of your microscope experiment for the 1964 opportunity. We hope that you will maintain your interest in the Mariner program as we would like to consider your experiment for the later flights.

Sincerely yours,

Homer E. Newell

Homer E. Newell, Director
Office of Space Sciences

Letter

Dear Homer:

To you in Japan

We fully appreciate these considerations and have oriented most of our recent efforts within the framework of your summaries, under the Multivator Project

NASA